

Message Text

SECRET

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 024554

NODIS

CHEROKEE EYES ONLY FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI

FOL RPT MOSCOW 1444 ACTION SECSTATE 30 JAN 78 QUOTE

S E C R E T MOSCOW 1444

NODIS/CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: SALT, US, UR, XW

SUBJECT: KORNIYENKO ON SALT AND HORN OF AFRICA

REF: (A) STATE 23803, (B) MOSCOW 1406

1. DURING JANUARY 30 CALL ON FIRSTY DEPUTY FOREIGN
MINISTER KORNIYENKO TO DELIVER THE TEXT OF THE PRESIDENT'S
JANUARY 25 LETTER (REF B), HE OFFERED THE FOLLOWING
COMMENTS ON SECRETARY'S JANUARY 27 DISCUSSION WITH DOBRYNIN.

2. SALT. KORNIYENKO SAID THAT HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY
SECRETARY'S ASSURANCES THAT ADMINISTRATION INTENDS TO
NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY ON SALT TREATY,
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SINCE PONOMAREV DELEGATION HAD RECEIVED IMPRESSION
FROM CONVERSATIONS ON HILL THAT THIS MIGHT NOT BE THE
CASE. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT SOVIETS HAVE FEELING THAT
THEIR RECENT CONCESSIONS HAVE NOT BEEN RECIPROCATED. U.S.
SIMPLY SAYS "THANK YOU VERY MUCH," POCKETS THE SOVIET
CONCESSIONS, AND MAKES NO ATTEMPT TO MOVE TOWARD SOVIET
POSITION. KORNIYENKO SAID THAT HE COULD NOT FAIL TO

TAKE NOTE OF THIS. CHANRGE COMMENTED THAT IN OUR VIEW WE HAVE MADE SUBSTANTIAL EFFORTS TO MEET SOVIETS HALF WAY AND THAT IT IS NOT CORRECT TO SPEAK EXCLUSIVELY OF SOVIET CONCESSIONS. THE SECRETARY, HE SAID, HAD LISTED FOR DOBRYNIN THE MAIN ISSUES WHICH REMAIN AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SOVIETS WOULD TAKE NOTE OF OUR POSITIONS AND ALLOW THE NEGOTIATIONS TO PROCEED RAPIDLY TO A CONCLUSION.

3. HORN. KORNIYENKO SAID THAT RECENT U.S. STATEMENTS, INCLUDING SECRETARY'S TO PONOMAREV AND DOBRYNIN, AMOUNTED TO A REPETITION OF CONCERN REGARDING SOVIET AND CUBAN AID TO ETHIOPIA, COUPLED WITH A GENERAL EXPRESSION OF HOPE FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION. AT THE SAME TIME, THE U.S. FAILS TO COME OUT WITH A CLEAR-CUT CONDEMNATION OF SOMALI AGRESSION OR WITH A CALL FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOMALI FORCES FROM THE OGADEN. THE SOMALIS, HE SAID, NOW CONTROL 90 PERCENT OF THE OGADEN AREA, AND THE ETHIOPIANS HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT THERE CAN BE NO PEACEFUL SOLUTION SO LONG AS THERE ARE SOMALI FORCES IN ETHIOPIA. OF COURSE, HE ADDED, IT IS USEFUL FOR THE U.S. AND USSR TO EXCHANGE OPINIONS, BUT THE SOVIET POSITION IS CLEAR: THE SOMALIS HAVE INVADDED ETHIOPIA AND SHOULD WITHDRAW. UNTIL THEY DO THE SOVIETS CAN NOT ADVISE THE ETHIOPIANS "TO SIT FOR TEN YEARS AS THE ARABS HAVE AFTER ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF THEIR TERRITORIES AND TAKE NO STEPS TO
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RECOVER THEIR LAND."

4. CHARGE ASKED WHETHER HE SHOULD INFER FROM KORNIYENKO'S REMARKS THAT SOVIETS SEE NO POSSIBILITY AT PRESENT FOR A SETTLEMENT BY NEGOTIATION. KORNIYENKO AVOIDED DIRECT ANSWER BUT ASKED THEORETICALLY HOW THERE CAN BE NEGOTIATIONS SO LONG AS SOMALI TROOPS OCCUPY ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY. SUPPOSE MEXICO, HE CONTINUED, SENT TROOPS TO NEW MEXICO AND DEMANDED THE STATE? THE U.S. WOULD CERTAINLY NOT NEGOTIATE WITH MEXICO. "SUCH A PROPOSAL WOULD BE ABSURD," HE CONCLUDED.

5. COMMENT: KORNIYENKO'S COMMENTS ON THESE SUBJECTS WERE PRELIMINARY AND DEFENSIVE. GIVEN GROMYKO'S REPORTED ABSENCE AT THIS TIME - NOT TO MENTION BREZHNEV'S AT LEAST QUASI-DISENGAGEMENT FROM AFFAIRS - IT IS MOST UNLIKELY THAT THE SECRETARY'S COMMENTS HAVE YET BEEN GIVEN FULL CONSIDERATION BY DECISION MAKERS.
MATLOCK

UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

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